

Serial No.: 09/353,160

Attorney Docket No.: 99P7704US

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-24 are pending.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 14-22 were allowed. Claims 8, 12, and 13 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if amended into independent form and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claims 8 and 12 have been so amended; claim 13 depends on amended claim 12. Thus, these claims should be allowable. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, and 23-24 were amended to more particularly point out Applicants' invention.

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being unpatentable over Kanter, PCT Publication No. WO 98/59470 ("Kanter"). In order for there to be anticipation, each and every element of the claimed invention must be present in a single, prior reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Kanter.

As discussed in response to the previous Official Action, an aspect of embodiments of the present invention is to provide H.323 or other telecommunication endpoints with a control layer which provides a communication domain identification (CDI) assigned to a user during call setup or other situations in which it is desirable to have domain-restricted functionality. In the call setup embodiment, the CDI may be used during the address resolution phase of the H.323 direct signaling mode. In particular, the CDI is used to determine whether the call is to a user at another extension of the same company. In the direct signaling mode, the communication domain identification control layer accesses a local database to make this determination. Similarly, the CDI may be provided during call setup in gatekeeper routed signaling. In this case, a communication domain identification control layer provides the CDI to the gatekeeper. The gatekeeper then performs the address resolution using the CDI to determine whether the call is to a user of another extension of the same company. Embodiments of the present invention thus allow for more than

Serial No.: 09/353,160

Attorney Docket No.: 99P7704US

one virtual domain to be associated with a single gatekeeper. Thus, the claims have been amended to recite, for example, in claim 1, "use of multiple virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper." As acknowledged in the Official Action, "Kanter does not teach multiple domains associated with a single gatekeeper." As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

SIEMENS CORPORATION

By: 

David D. Chung  
Registration No.:  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Tel.: 650-694-5339  
Fax: 650-968-4517

Date: 4 May 04

SIEMENS CORPORATION  
Intellectual Property Department  
170 Wood Avenue South  
Iselin, New Jersey 08830  
ATTENTION: Elsa Keller, Legal Department  
Telephone: (732) 321-3026